



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF BARNSTABLE COUNTY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**ACCREDITED**



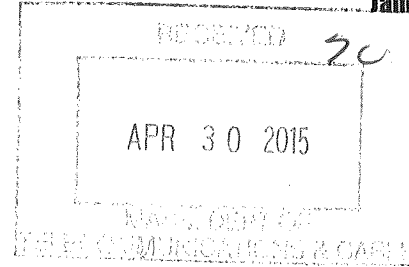
American  
Correctional  
Association



Commission on  
Accreditation of  
Rehabilitation  
Facilities

April 28, 2015

Sara Clark, Secretary  
Department of Telecommunications and Cable  
1000 Washington Street, Suite 820  
Boston, MA 02118



**Sheriff  
James M. Cummings**

Dear Secretary Clark:

I write to you today in support of the State 911 Department's Petition to Adjust the Enhanced 911 Surcharge.

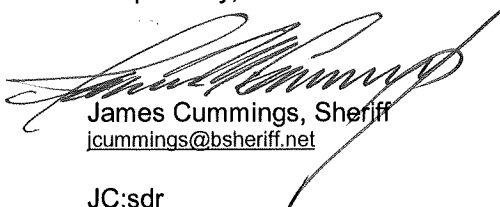
As the Sheriff of Barnstable County, Cape Cod, I operate one of the largest Regional Communications Centers in Massachusetts. This would not be possible without the financial support of the State 911 Department and the State 911 Commission. We are currently able to use Enhanced 911 technology as well as GIS Mapping to identify and locate those in need of Emergency Services thanks to State 911 Department and State 911 Commission funding. Our business of saving lives has become technology driven. Our current Enhanced 911 system is nearing its end of life and will not be supported in the near future thus making the system prone to failure or interruption of service. This is not acceptable in the operation of an Emergency Communications System.

As I have already mentioned, Emergency Communications has become technology driven. As we all know technology has also influenced the manner in which we communicate with each other. A home telephone is quickly becoming a thing of the past. Our society currently communicates using several different communications devices. Texting and video is quickly, if it isn't already, becoming our main way of communicating with each other. Emergency Communications must keep pace with this. Next Generation 911 system platforms will allow us to keep up with the way the public communicates.

Next Generation 911 will allow for the additional data needed for texting to 911, this is necessary for the deaf and those who may be in an emergency situation which would not allow them speak. Videos and images sent to 911 can be forwarded to First Responders enhancing their safety and the safety of the general Public. This will not be possible without the requested Surcharge Adjustment.

It is with the greatest respect on behalf of the Public Safety Community and People of Barnstable that I ask for a favorable vote on the State 911 Departments Petition to adjust the Enhanced 911 Surcharge.

Respectfully,

  
James Cummings, Sheriff  
[jcummings@bsheriff.net](mailto:jcumings@bsheriff.net)

JC:sdr

**INTEGRITY**

**PROFESSIONALISM**

**COMPASSION**

**TEAMWORK**

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MASHPEE - ORLEANS - PROVINCETOWN - SANDWICH - TRURO - WELLFLEET - YARMOUTH